



THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

3010 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-3010

FEB 13 2008

MEMORANDUM FOR CHAIRMAN, DEFENSE SCIENCE BOARD

SUBJECT: Terms of Reference – Defense Science Board (DSB) Task Force on
Achieving Interoperability in a Net-Centric Environment

Achieving interoperability in a net-centric environment is recognized as fundamental to achieving the full potential of Transformation. Interoperable forces demonstrate superior performance in every operational environment. This is true in both combat environments and in the civilian sector where net-enabled devices are transforming the way people live and work. However, numerous impediments exist that have significantly delayed the achievement of the desired end state despite the demonstrated benefits of fully interoperable forces.

You are requested to establish a DSB Task Force on Interoperability in a Net-Centric Environment. The Task Force should assess different models of achieving interoperability. In assessing the different mechanisms to achieve interoperability, the Task Force must keep in mind the multiple organizations involved in DoD operations. These include, but are not limited to, the respective Military Departments, domestic support operations, coalition partners, and non-traditional partners (e.g., NGOs).

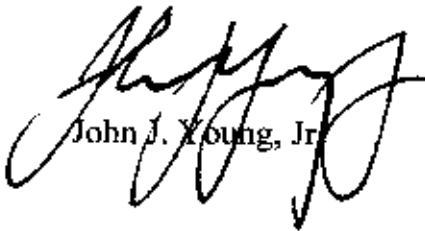
At a minimum, the Task Force should assess:

- The requirement for military operations in a net-centric environment;
- The use of a single autonomous agency as one mechanism to achieving interoperability (e.g., Army Central Technical Support Facility) established to integrate non-materiel and materiel solution sets for military operations in a net-centric environment;
- A standards-only approach allowing independent development of systems certified to the standards;
- The development of a virtual test, integration, and certification capability to assure interoperability of military operations in a net-centric environment;
- The ability of each model to establish and maintain configuration management amongst the multiple organizations involved in DoD operations;
- The potential to use current systems to incrementally evolve to net-centric capability, especially in light of the rapid evolution in the network domain contrasted with the lack of synchronized and comprehensive DoD modernization.



The Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence, the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Networks, and Information Integration), and the Commander, U.S. Strategic Command, will sponsor this study. The Honorable Art Money and Lieutenant General Bill Hilsman, USA (Ret.), will co-Chair the Task Force. Mr. David Jakubek of OUSD(AT&L), Mr. R.C. Porter of OUSD(I), and Mr. Jack Zavin of OASD(NII), will serve as co-Executive Secretaries. Commander Cliff Phillips, USN, will serve as the DSB Secretariat representative.

The Task Force will operate in accordance with the provisions of P.L. 92-463, the "Federal Advisory Committee Act," and DOD Directive 5105.4, the "DoD Federal Advisory Committee Management Program." It is not anticipated that this Task Force will need to go into any "particular matters" within the meaning of title 18, U.S. Code, section 208, nor will it cause any member to be placed in the position of acting as a procurement official.



John J. Young, Jr.